

police. We're ahead of schedule on the thing that is doing the most to make America a safer place, thanks to those of you in law enforcement.

I might also say thanks to the Attorney General and to you, Chief. We're not only ahead of schedule; we're also under budget. So if you guys will keep us under budget, we may go over 100,000 police.

But as the Attorney General has said, and as all of you know, there are still some neighborhoods in America, and too many of them, where crime hasn't receded far enough or fast enough. Congressman Cummings told me this morning that he lives in one of those neighborhoods, and we need to do more. We have to focus our resources on high-crime, high-need neighborhoods to bring the benefits of community policing to every community. And in the difficult areas, that means we have to reach a critical mass of police officers in community policing before it can make the necessary difference.

So I am pleased to say today that the Department of Justice will fully fund over 700 new community police officers who will be on the beat specifically in troubled areas: 150 in Chicago fighting drug-related crime; 100 in Baltimore to fight drugs and violent crimes; 170 in Miami to take back the streets in neighborhoods along the Miami River; Hartford will put their officers to work to fight a new surge of violent gang activity.

Now, as we extend the reach of community policing in our cities, we in Washington have a responsibility to continue to advance this strategy that has brought success. We have more to do to protect our children, more to do to fight juvenile crime, more to do to keep our kids and our schools free and safe from guns and from drugs. The same community policing techniques that are helping to make our streets safe again are the best way to help keep our schools safe. In March we began to make funds available to achieve this objective, and we should do more.

We have to do more and more to push back the frontiers of violence. The recent wave of shootings in our schools reminds us again that more police, more prosecutors, tougher laws, more vigilant neighborhoods, and more positive opportunities for our kids to stay out of trouble in the first place. All

of those things have to be done by those of us in authority.

But the parents, the teachers, the community leaders, all of them have to do more, too, to teach our children right from wrong, to teach them to turn away from violence, to identify troubled children before they do something irrevocably destructive. We have to do more to show our children by the power of example and the power of outreach that we care about each and every one of them.

Finally, let me say that I want to say what has been said by others—what the Attorney General said. You're doing a good job, and the rest of us are grateful. We can say, "Well, crime has dropped 27 percent," or "It's the lowest in 25 years." Those are statistical abstractions. There are children who are playing free today because of what you have done. There are people who are alive today because of what you have done. There are businesses functioning in neighborhoods today that would be closed if it hadn't been for what you have done. You have given our people a deeper freedom. And as we stand on the brink of a new century, we should all be very, very grateful.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Terry Hillard, superintendent of police, Chicago, IL; and Mayor Michael White of Cleveland, OH.

## **Statement on Russia's Economic Situation**

*May 29, 1998*

I strongly welcome Russia's announcement today of its new economic program for 1998. This program, developed in consultation with the IMF, signals Russia's commitment to a bold economic reform agenda to strengthen financial stability and encourage investment and growth. The United States intends to support this program when it is reviewed by the IMF Board.

Yesterday President Yeltsin called me to discuss Russia's strategy for creating strong economic growth. In addition, Prime Minister Kiriyenko called the Vice President.

President Yeltsin underscored that he and Prime Minister Kiriyenko will spare no effort in implementing this program. Recent months have been difficult for Russia and other emerging markets. President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Kiriyenko aim to establish a firm defense against financial market turmoil.

Russia's new economic plan puts in place a solid strategy for fiscal reform. It gives Russian officials the authority they need to collect taxes, crack down on companies that ignore their obligations to the Government, and control spending in line with revenues. What is now important is to carry out these reforms decisively and resolutely. The United States will continue to encourage strong IMF and World Bank engagement in support of reform.

**Statement on Withdrawal of  
Medicare Funding for Ravenswood  
Hospital in Chicago, Illinois**

*May 29, 1998*

Today my administration informed the president of Ravenswood Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, that the hospital will lose its Medicare funding on June 21, 1998, unless the facility takes steps to ensure that the events that led to the tragic death of 15-year-old Christopher Sercye are never repeated.

On May 16, Christopher died of gunshot wounds just 35 feet from Ravenswood, where friends had brought the young man for help. There is simply no excuse for this. No one should be left untreated just footsteps from a hospital entrance. No health care professional should turn the other way, and no supervisor should direct an employee not to intervene in a medical emergency.

That is why the Health Care Financing Administration delivered a letter today advising Ravenswood Hospital that unless it provides credible evidence that its policies have been restructured, it will lose all Medicare funding next month. This administration stands ready to take the same strong action against any facility that does not assist in a medical emergency.

I am also extremely pleased that the American Hospital Association has released new

guidelines that advise hospitals to change any policies that prevent taking appropriate actions in a medical emergency. We cannot reverse this inexplicable tragedy, but we can and must take action so that it does not happen again.

**Proclamation 7100—Death of Barry  
M. Goldwater**

*May 29, 1998*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

As a mark of respect for the memory of Barry M. Goldwater, former Senator from the State of Arizona, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions on Wednesday, June 3, 1998. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff on that day at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 2, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 3.